

F820 004-1872

NO. 1296

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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Shanghai, China, March 25, 1938.
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DIVISION OF
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SEP 2 1938
DEPARTMENT OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONFIDENTIAL

*File
no
4-26-38*

SUBJECT: Activities of Dr. Hermann F. Erben
in China.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 1189
of February 2, 1938, and to the telegram of the Consul
at Kobe to the Department, dated January 21st, concerning
the desire of Dr. Hermann F. Erben to have his passport
made valid for travel in China. It is thought that some
of Erben's statements made to members of my staff may be
of interest to the Department.

*Noted
8/11/00 King
893.114*

Dr. Erben arrived in Shanghai from Japan on January
23rd and the following day appeared at this office and
among other things requested a translation of a document
in Chinese given him by the Chinese Legation in Vienna.
This document was a letter of appointment of Erben as a
surgeon of the Chinese Red Cross and instructed him to
proceed to Nanking and also requested the Chinese authori-
ties to give him every assistance. No mention was made
in the document of any rate of pay or similar terms which
are normally a part of an employment contract. It appears
that Erben and several Austrian doctors had been hired to

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come to China as Red Cross workers but that upon arrival at Hong Kong they were not given the employment and compensation they were led to expect. Erben was the only one to come to Shanghai, the others remaining in Hong Kong and Canton. A great deal of publicity was given to the cases of these doctors, principally by the SHANGHAI EVENING POST AND MERCURY (American). On March 9th Erben reported that he had been paid 300 Pounds Sterling by the Chinese Red Cross in full settlement of any claims against the Chinese Government.

During one of his visits to this office Erben, whose name was recently removed from the narcotic suspect list of the Treasury Department, reported that he had been informed that the reason for his name being on the narcotic suspect list was his friendship with Dr. A. von Miorini, an Austrian physician and surgeon at Shanghai who, Erben states, is a classmate of his. He further stated that Dr. von Miorini had long been suspected by the Shanghai River Police of the Chinese Maritime Customs of engaging in narcotic traffic. However, so far as has been learned Von Miorini has never been arrested or tried on any narcotic charge.

Erben appears to be an ardent "Nazi" and his usual greeting is the Fascist salute. He said that he was a member of the Nazi party in Austria and Germany and showed his alleged membership card. He also stated that he was affiliated with so-called Nazi organizations in the United States and said that he believed there were at least two million members in these groups throughout the country. He added that he was confident that within two or three years the United States would have a "Nazi" government and that when that time arrived the Jews in the United States would be subjected to the same treatment their co-religionists in Germany have received.

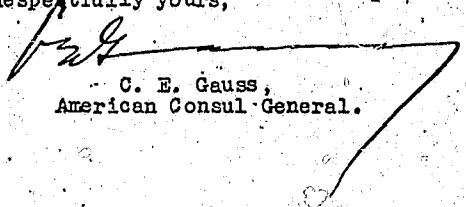
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When Erben left Shanghai, he stated he would act as ship's surgeon on the Norwegian steamer "TRITON" due to leave Kobe on March 9th for Los Angeles and New York. During his stay in Shanghai he apparently did not attract the attention of the authorities as the Special Branch of the Shanghai Municipal Police report that they failed to note any unusual activities on Erben's part.

Respectfully yours,


C. E. Gauss,
American Consul General.

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